

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously presented) A hand-held dispenser for dispensing a multiplicity of unit products comprising:

- a container for containing the unit products which has an access opening through which the unit products are able to be removed from the container; and
- a dispensing module which is adapted to be releasably connected to the container in an operational position in which the dispensing module covers the access opening, the dispensing module having:-

- an internal volume into which the unit products are transferable from the container through the access opening when the dispensing module is in the operational position;

- an outlet opening which communicates with the internal volume;
 - and

- a dispensing mechanism which operates to dispense a predetermined number of unit products from the outlet opening on actuation thereof;

the dispenser being characterised by further comprising a closure which is adapted to be selectively, releasably fitted to:

- the container for closing the access opening when the dispensing module is not releasably connected to the container; and

- the dispensing module for closing the outlet opening.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented) The dispenser of claim 1 [[2]] wherein the closure is a cap.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously presented) The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the closure is able to be screw fitted to the dispensing module and the container.
7. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 in which the dispensing mechanism is adapted in use to dispense the unit products one at a time from the outlet opening.
8. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 in which the predetermined number is one.
9. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the dispensing mechanism is manually actuatable by a user.
10. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the dispensing mechanism has a non-dispensing mode, in which it prevents the unit products from being dispensed from the outlet opening, and a dispensing mode, in which it dispenses the predetermined number of unit products from the outlet opening, the dispensing mechanism moving from the non-dispensing mode to the dispensing mode on actuation of the dispensing mechanism.
11. (Original) The dispenser of claim 10 wherein the dispensing mechanism is biased to the non-dispensing mode by a biasing structure in the dispensing module.

12. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the dispensing mechanism has a gate mechanism which moves from a shut state to an open state on actuation of the dispensing mechanism, the gate mechanism shutting the outlet opening in the shut state to prevent dispensing of the unit products therefrom and opening the outlet opening in the open state to enable dispensing of the unit products therefrom.

13. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the dispensing mechanism is adapted to cause the unit products to be conveyed to the outlet opening one at a time.

14. (Original) The dispenser of claim 13 wherein the dispensing module internal volume has a channel along which the unit products are conveyable to the outlet opening, the channel adapted to cause the unit products to be conveyed to the outlet opening one at a time.

15. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the dispensing mechanism is adapted to cause the unit products to be conveyed to the outlet opening in a common predetermined orientation of the unit product.

16. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 14 wherein the channel is further adapted to cause the unit products to be conveyed to the outlet opening in the common predetermined orientation.

17. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 14 wherein the internal volume defines a funnel-like shape which comprises the channel at an outlet end thereof and a mouth of tapered construction at an inlet end thereof which communicates with the container access opening in the operational position of the dispensing module and operates in use to funnel the unit products into the channel.

18. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 14 wherein the channel is of length sufficient that a queue of unit products is able to form therein.

19. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claims 14 wherein the dispensing mechanism has a gate mechanism which moves from a shut state to an open state on actuation of the dispensing mechanism, the gate mechanism shutting the outlet opening in the shut state to prevent dispensing of the unit products therefrom and opening the outlet opening in the open state to enable dispensing of the unit products therefrom, and wherein the gate mechanism blocks the channel in its shut state and unblocks the channel in its open state.

20. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 18 wherein the gate mechanism is adapted to selectively release the predetermined number of unit products at the front of the queue when moved to its open state.

21. (Original) The dispenser of claim 20 wherein the gate mechanism is adapted such that in its shut state it blocks the channel in front of the queue and such that when it is moved from the shut state to the open state it unblocks the channel in front of the queue and blocks the channel behind the predetermined number of unit products at the front of the queue whereby the predetermined number of unit products is dispensed from the outlet opening.

22. (Original) The dispenser of claim 21 wherein the gate mechanism is further adapted such that as it moves from the shut state to the open state it displaces the portion of the queue disposed behind the predetermined number of unit products at the queue front backwards in the channel.

23. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 in which the dispensing mechanism has a manually-engagable actuator for actuating the dispensing mechanism.

24. (Original) The dispenser of claim 23 wherein the actuator protrudes from the dispensing module and is displaceable to actuate the dispensing mechanism.
25. (Original) The dispenser of claim 24 wherein the actuator is displaceable into the dispensing module.
26. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 23 wherein the actuator and outlet opening are so arranged on the dispensing module that the actuator is able to be actuated by a hand of a user so that the predetermined number of unit products is dispensed into that hand.
27. (Original) The dispenser of claim 26 wherein the actuator and outlet opening are provided in a surface of the module such that pushing the module surface into a user's palm is able to cause actuation of the actuator and dispensing into the palm.
28. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 23 wherein the dispensing mechanism has a gate mechanism which moves from a shut state to an open state on actuation of the dispensing mechanism, the gate mechanism shutting the outlet opening in the shut state to prevent dispensing of the unit products therefrom and opening the outlet opening in the open state to enable dispensing of the unit products therefrom, and in which the actuator forms at least a part of the gate mechanism.
29. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 including the unit products.
30. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 in which the unit products are pharmaceutical products.

31. (Original) The dispenser of claim 30 wherein the pharmaceutical products are oral dosage forms.
32. (Currently amended) The dispenser of claim 1 in which the dispensing module further has a an electronic dispensing indicator which is adapted in use to indicate the number of unit products dispensed from, or remaining in, the dispenser.
33. (Currently amended) The dispenser of claim 32 wherein the dispensing indicator has a an electronic display which in use represents graphically the number of unit products dispensed or remaining.
34. (Original) The dispenser of claim 33 in which the dispensing indicator is a counter and the display in use represents numerically the number of unit products dispensed or remaining.
- 35-36 (Canceled).
37. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 32 wherein the dispensing indicator is operatively coupled to a detector which is adapted in use to detect actuation of the dispensing mechanism.
38. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 32 wherein the dispensing indicator is operatively coupled to a detector which is adapted in use to detect dispensing of the predetermined number of unit products.
39. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 37 wherein the display is an electronic display, and wherein the dispensing indicator has an electrical control circuit for controlling the display and the detector(s) is a trigger(s) for the circuit.

40. (Original) The dispenser of claim 39 wherein the trigger(s) is a switch operable to trigger the circuit.
41. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 40 wherein the dispensing indicator is operatively coupled to a detector which is adapted in use to detect actuation of the dispensing mechanism, and wherein the dispensing mechanism is adapted to operate the switch when actuated.
42. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 40 wherein the dispensing indicator is operatively coupled to a detector which is adapted in use to detect dispensing of the predetermined number of unit products, and wherein the switch is positioned so as to be operated by the unit product(s).
43. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 in which the dispensing module has a timing mechanism adapted in use to time the period since last dispensing of the predetermined number of unit products.
44. (Original) The dispenser of claim 43 in which the timing mechanism is adapted in use to indicate the time since last dispensing.
45. (Original) The dispenser of claim 44 having a display on the dispensing module forming part of the timing mechanism on which, in use, the time since last dispensing is graphically indicated thereon.
46. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 43 wherein the timing mechanism has a controller programmed with a predetermined dispensing regime for dispensing of the unit products and the controller controls the timing mechanism so that it provides an alert when dispensing of the unit products is required in accordance with the dispensing regime.

47. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 which is adapted such that in use the unit products are gravity-fed from the container to the dispensing module.

48. (Original) The dispenser of claim 47 which is adapted such that in use the unit products are gravity-fed to the outlet opening.

49. (Previously Presented) The dispenser of claim 1 in which the dispensing module is connected to the container and a tamper-evidence structure is provided to show whether the dispensing module is subsequently disconnected from the container.

50. (Original) The dispenser of claim 49 in which the tamper-evidence structure is applied across a boundary between the dispensing module and the container.

51. (Original) The dispenser of claim 50 wherein the tamper-evidence structure is a label.

52-56. (Canceled).

57. (Previously presented) The dispenser of claim 1, wherein the dispensing module has a first connector structure for connecting the dispensing module to the container and a second connector structure for enabling connection of the closure to the dispensing module to close the outlet opening, the first and second connector structures being complementary to one another so that the closure is also connectable to the container in place of the dispensing module.

58. (Previously presented) The dispenser of claim 23, wherein the closure is adapted to be releasably fitted to the actuator of the dispensing module for closing the outlet opening.

59. (Previously presented) The dispenser of claim 58, wherein the closure prevents the actuator from being operated to actuate the dispensing mechanism when fitted to the actuator.

60. (Previously presented) The dispenser of claim 25, wherein the closure is adapted to be releasably fitted to the actuator for closing the outlet opening and to prevent displacement of the actuator into the dispensing module to prevent actuation of the dispensing mechanism.

61. (Previously presented) The dispenser of claim 58, wherein the outlet opening is provided in the actuator.